

STEVE DAINES
MONTANA

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United States Senate

EXHIBIT #8
DATE 3/24/15
COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS
SB 176

Longfellow Elementary School 4th Grade Students
c/o Debbie Nelson and Kristen Sigler
516 South Tracy Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715

Go Longfellow!
I attended
K-4 there from
1967-1972.
Star

Dear 4th Grade Students of Longfellow Elementary School,

As a Longfellow Elementary alumnus, I am excited by your hard work and dedication to the task of establishing Scobey Soil as the official state soil of Montana. Since 2015 is the International Year of the Soil, this is a great time to honor Montana's soil resources.

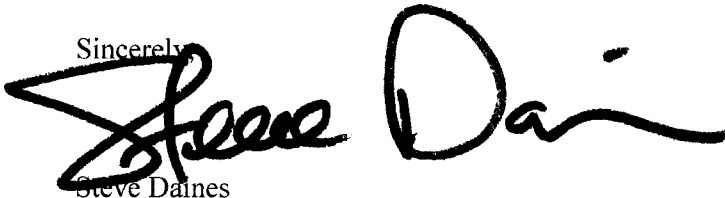
Students, just like you, have been researching and promoting state symbols in Montana for over 100 years and have made recommendations that led to the designation of our state tree (the Ponderosa Pine), our state mammal (the Grizzly Bear), and our state fossil (the Maisaura).

Since Scobey soil is unique to this state, it has an important place in Montana's history as well as a vital role in the many wheat farming communities in the Golden Triangle. I even believe my great-great-grandmother, Karine Dyrud, farmed Scobey Soils near Conrad on the Hi-Line in the late 1800s.

I would like to thank your teachers, Debbie Nelson and Kristen Sigler, for their hard work, commitment, and dedication to you, their students, and to this project. Their efforts have a significant impact on this task and mean a great deal to the community.

Congratulations to each of you on your hard work and involvement to this project. I hope it serves as inspiration for future projects throughout your time as students and beyond. I know you have inspired me and I will be sure to contact my State Representative, Matthew Monforton, and ask him to support legislation to establish Scobey Soil as the official State Soil of Montana.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



American Society of Agronomy • Crop Science Society of America • Soil Science Society of America

5585 Guilford Road, Madison, WI 53711-5801 • Tel: 608-273-8080 • Fax 608-273-2021

www.agronomy.org • www.crops.org • www.soils.org

The Honorable Alan Redfield
Chair, Agriculture Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620-0400

The Honorable Margaret McDonald
Vice Chair, Agriculture Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620-0400

The Honorable Christy Clark
Vice Chair, Agriculture Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620-0400

March 23, 2015

Dear Mr. Redfield, Ms. Clark and Ms. McDonald:

We are writing in support of Senate Bill No. 176, to designate the Scobey soil series as the official Montana state soil.

The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) represent over 18,000 scientists in academia, industry, and government, 12,500 Certified Crop Advisers (CCA), and 781 Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS), as the largest coalition of professionals dedicated to the agronomic, crop and soil science disciplines in the United States.

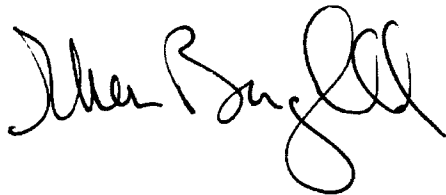
Soil is perhaps the most essential feature of the success of Montana State. It is through soil that Montana enjoys natural treasures like the Big Sky's clean air, crystal-clear water, abundant wildlife, and diverse vegetation.

Scobey soils are unique to Montana, represent productive crop and rangelands of the northern plains, and are more extensive than any other non-irrigated cropland soil series. Ultimately, Scobey soils support Montana's agriculture industry that generates over \$4.7 billion annually in services and products for the state's economy.

Recognizing Scobey soils honors Montana's agricultural and natural heritage and the important role soil plays in their economies. Furthermore, state symbols drive education about Montana's natural treasures.

2015 has been designated as the International Year of Soils and we urge to join 21 other US states that have designated a state soil to recognize the important role of our nation's soils.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Bergfeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bergfeld".

Ellen Bergfeld, CEO
American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America

JON TESTER
MONTANA

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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1-866-554-4403

INTERNET:
<http://tester.senate.gov/contact>

United States Senate

January 12, 2015

Debbie Nelson and Kristin Sigler
Longfellow Elementary School
516 South Tracy
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Ms. Nelson, Ms. Sigler and students,

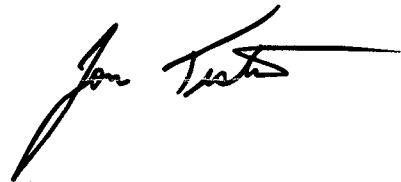
Congratulations and thank you for your hard work researching and concluding that the Scobey Soil Series should be declared the state's official state soil. I write in full support of the declaration.

Montana has a state bird, animal and flower. As a farmer, I think it's high time that Montana's rich soil is recognized, too.

Proposing a bill to the legislature and following it through the legislative process is an exciting and valuable experience. I am very proud of you for taking this on and seeing it through.

Good luck on your legislation. Please let me know if I can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator

CC: Senator JP Pomnichowski
Montana Senate
P O Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0550

BOZEMAN
(406) 586-4450

BUTTE
(406) 723-3277

GLENDIVE
(406) 365-2391

GREAT FALLS
(406) 452-9585

HELENA
(406) 449-5401

KALISPELL
(406) 257-3360

BILLINGS
(406) 252-0550

MISSOULA
(406) 728-3003

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

February 3, 2015

Dear Senator Pomnichowski and Longfellow Fourth Grade Students:

I offer my full encouragement in your effort to designate Scobey Soil as the official state soil for the State of Montana. I commend you for your civic engagement and participation in the legislative process. It is valued by all Montanans to have your voices heard.

Montanans have a strong foundation of hard work and dedication, and the Big Sky State is grounded in the soil that nourishes our livestock and crops. Scobey Soil makes up the fertile land of Montana's Golden Triangle and Hi-Line, contributing to the state's \$4.7 billion agricultural industry. Our rich resources in cattle, wheat, pulse crops, and other agricultural commodities are the backbone of Montana's economy, so it seems only prudent to add an official state soil to Montana's state symbols.

As Governor, I am proud of your civic engagement and the hard work you have put into the pursuit of this state soil designation. It is with pride that I support your efforts, and urge the Legislature to consider Scobey Soil as Montana's State Soil favorably.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Steve Bullock in black ink.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor



January 23, 2015

Senate Ag Committee

Montana Legislature

Helena, MT 59601

Dear Committee,

I am writing this letter **in support** of the bill entitled, "An Act Designating The Scobey Soil Series As Montana's Official State Soil".

As a farmer in this great State, I am pleased to learn of the effort to name a State Soil. After all, it is the soil of this land that sustains us, and the importance of that one resource should not be under-valued. We, stewards, take great care to ensure that the soils of our farms are as productive as possible, and therefore; we undertake this responsibility with dignity and assurance.

The Scobey soil series is well suited for this honor, as it is found in the State's most productive regions, and is suitable for a diverse set of crops.

Please move forward with approving this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dean Folkvord". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dean Folkvord, Founder & CEO